

REMARKS

Claims 2, 13, and 24 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3 through 12, 14 through 23 and 25 through 31 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 12, 14, 15, and 23 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging them to be unpatentable over Rosa et al in view of Tanaka et al.

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 12, and 23 to include the allowed subject matter of Claims 2, 13 and 24, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants believe the Examiner's rejection under §103 to be moot.

In light of the amendments, Applicants believe independent Claims 1, 12, and 23, as well as their dependent claims, 3 through 11, 14 through 22 and 24 through 27, respectively, to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

Claims 28 through 31 have been indicated as allowable.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 24, 2004

By: 
W. R. Duke Taylor
Reg. No. 31,306

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

WRDT/jp